

PROPOSED STUDY BY HIRAM LANGSTON, M.D.,
OF CANCER OF THE LUNG IN VETERANS

Dr. Langston is an eminent thoracic surgeon practicing in the Chicago area. He disputed the cigarette-lung cancer causation hypothesis in testimony at hearings before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in June of 1964 (Hearings, pp. 237 ff.) and the Senate Committee on Commerce in March, 1965 (Hearings, pp. 790 ff.) on bills to regulate the labeling and advertising of cigarettes. His statement opposing the causation hypothesis was filed with the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce during its hearings on such bills held in April and May of 1965 (Hearings, pp. 580 ff.).

Dr. Langston's testimony in opposition to the causation thesis was based in part upon an analysis he had made of 2,570 veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Hines, Illinois. This analysis showed that the age of peak incidence of bronchogenic carcinoma was 50 to 65 years. Dr. Langston testified that this finding accorded with other data showing that that same age incidence persists, regardless of whether, how long, or how much

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the subject smokes. He said: "Certainly this fact justifies doubt of the hypothesis that smoking is a causal factor in lung cancer."

It is my understanding that the 2,570 veterans so far analyzed by Langston represent about one-half of the veterans at Hines. Dr. Langston would like to complete the analysis of the veterans' records, in collaboration with Dr. Puestow. He estimates, I am informed, that \$2,000 to \$3,000 will be required to pay for the clerical assistance necessary to tabulate the remaining veterans' records. Dr. Langston would be prepared to submit a program to a source which would be likely to agree to furnish this amount of financial assistance to his project.

J.C.B.